HENRY B. GONZALEZ
20TH DISTRICT, TEXAS
BEXAR COUNTY

2135 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-3236

COMMITTEES:
SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
SBA LEGISLATION
SBA OVERSIGHT AND MINORITY ENTERPRISE

BANKING, CURRENCY AND HOUSING
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS AND FINANCE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
GENERAL OVERSIGHT AND REHABILITATION

(SELECT) ON MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

WHIP:
TEXAS DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# Congress of the United States
## House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

STAFF:
GAIL J. BEAGLE
KELSAY R. MEEK
MRS. BONNIE CALDWELL
RAYMOND I. CANTU
ELLA M. WONG
MRS. LORRAINE G. INMAN
ARLETT L. HARTIE
ELOY AGUILAR
GARY INMAN
MRS. LINDA S. PATTON
MRS. ADELAIDA B. HERNANDEZ
MRS. EDYTH BAISH
MRS. MILDRED DONAHUE

HOME OFFICE:
B-124 FEDERAL BUILDING
727 E. DURANGO STREET
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78206
512-229-6199

MRS. LUZ G. TAMEZ
MRS. CORA FAYE CLAYTON
MRS. MARY JESSIE ROQUE
JESSE WONG

September 23, 1976

FILE NO. 813

The Honorable Thomas N. Downing, Chairman
House Select Committee on Assassinations
2135 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I was pleased to learn today that the House Administration Committee approved $150,000 for the duration of this Congress for support of our new Select Committee on Assassinations.

As I indicated in my remarks at the preliminary meeting which you called yesterday afternoon, I believe the committee should operate as a committee. It should seek to develop and maintain a consensus on the work to be accomplished and methods to be followed. Staff should be selected, I believe, by the committee as a whole. I am enclosing with this letter a suggested list of staff positions and qualifications for these positions.

In consideration of the general philosophy of the committee, I believe the committee should eschew any statements that it believes in this or that theory. The requirement is to develop the facts and let the facts speak; it is self-defeating to proclaim at the outset that the committee believes there was a conspiracy, or that there was not.

I believe the committee should speak through announcements only. Leaks are inevitable, but the committee itself should assure

-continued-

that official information is given only in the name of the committee, preferably through a staff representative, and in written form, insofar as possible. Announcements should be [illegible] the committee in advance.

The committee should organize itself in a way that allows all information to be received; but it should not allow itself to be bogged down by well-meaning individuals. The information specialist and staff could provide an effective filter whereby all information is received and catalogued, so that investigators have access, but are not beseiged by offerors of information, theory, or fancy.

I am hopeful that we can think in terms of phasing of the work of the committee in these terms:

I. Organizational Meetings -- rules, determination of scope of investigation, staffing pattern (tasks and qualifications of staff), phasing of investigation,

II. Information Collection and Collation,

III. Evaluation of Information,

IV. Hearings -- evaluation of hearings and determination of whether to hold further hearings, and

V. Report Preparation.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Henry

Henry B. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

cc: Members, Select Committee on Assassinations

## Organization of Staff

### Staff Director

A person well qualified in Committee operations; familiar with rules, capable of dealing effectively with Members, and capable of assigning and controlling work of the staff. This person will be responsible for overall operations.

### Administrator

A person thoroughly acquainted with House accounting, [illegible] and the financial systems. This person will secure office space, keep track of all accounts, develop and control the budget, and submit all monthly reports required by the Committee on House Administration.

### Information Specialist

Probably the key to any investigative effort. A person thoroughly trained in and experienced with the acquisition, handling and storage of all kinds of information. This requires training in all fields of library skill, knowledge of all relevant research tools, and ability to work with investigative staff. This person should be trained in acquisition, handling and storage of secret documents; security clearance would be necessary.

### Counsel and Chief Investigator

An experienced lawyer, who would serve as counsel and supervise the investigation.

### Investigators

At least three; one charged with covering President Kennedy; one with covering King; one with covering possibly other assassinations such as that of Senator Kennedy.

Supporting staff as necessary; pathologists, researchers on terrorism, psychologists and experts on police and legal procedures.

-continued-

## Organization of Staff

### Investigators cont.

In all cases, investigators must be persons well qualified to gather and assess information -- and most importantly, have [illegible] ideas They must act on facts only, not one [illegible], Bernard Fensterwald, Mark Lane and several others could not serve effectively; investigators and sources are two different things.

### Support Staff

Secretaries, clerks, as necessary.